## § 330.605

the agency's specific rating and ranking process. Generally, this means that the individual may or may not meet the agency's test for "highly qualified," but would in fact, exceed the minimum qualifications for the position:

- (3) Is physically qualified, with reasonable accommodation where appropriate, to perform the essential duties of the position:
- (4) Meets any special qualifying condition(s) that OPM has approved for the position; and
- (5) Is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry.

## § 330.605 Eligibility.

- (a) To be eligible for the special selection priority, an individual must meet all of the following conditions:
- (1) Is a surplus or displaced employee (still on the agency rolls) as defined in §330.604 (c) and (i);
- (2) Has a current performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent:
- (3) Applies for a vacancy that is at or below the grade level from which the employee may be or is being separated, that does not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which the employee may be or is being separated;
- (4) Occupies a position in the same local commuting area of the vacancy; or, at the agency's discretion, occupies a position beyond the local commuting area. An eligible agency applicant outside of the local commuting area, however, can only exercise selection priority when there are no eligible surplus and displaced agency employees within the local commuting area who apply and are found well-qualified;
- (5) Files an application for a specific vacancy within the time frames established by the agency, and provides proof of eligibility as required under § 330.608(a)(2); and
- (6) Is determined by the agency to be well-qualified for the specific vacancy.
- (b) Eligibility for special selection priority begins on the date the agency issues the employee a reduction in force separation notice, certificate of expected separation, notice of proposed separation for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function out-

side of the local commuting area, or other official agency certification.

- (c) Eligibility expires on the earliest of:
- (1) The RIF separation date, the date of the employee's resignation, retirement, or separation from the agency (including separation under adverse action procedures for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function or similar relocation to another local commuting area).
- (2) Cancellation of the RIF separation notice, certificate of expected separation, notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function outside of the commuting area, or other official agency certification identifying the employee as surplus; or
- (3) When an eligible employee receives a career, career-conditional, or excepted appointment without time limit in any agency at any grade level; and
- (4) Within an agency, and at the agency's discretion, when an eligible employee declines a career, career conditional, or excepted appointment (without time limit), for which the employee has applied and been rated well-qualified.

[62 FR 31320, June 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 40509, July 27, 1999]

## § 330.606 Order of selection for filling vacancies from within the agency.

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, when filling a vacancy as defined in §330.604(j), an agency must select an employee eligible under §330.605 of this subpart before selecting any other candidate from within or outside the agency, unless the agency can show that another employee would otherwise be separated by reduction in force. In addition, agencies may not procure temporary help services under 5 CFR part 300, subpart E, in lieu of appointing a surplus or displaced Federal employee as required by subparts F and G of this chapter.
- (b) Once the agency has met its obligation to select employees eligible under its CTAP, it is free to select any other competitive service tenure group 1 or 2 candidate from within its workforce, under appropriate procedures. An agency may provide selection priority